UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1081
2 August 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Letter dated 1 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee

With reference to the aide-mémoire 12/91 dated 31 July 1991 of the Special Committee concerning requests from persons as well as organizations to appear before the Special Committee as petitioners to speak about the so-called question of East Timor, I wish to convey the position of my delegation as follows:

The process of decolonization in East Timor has been carried out in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), thus terminating the colonial status of the former Territory. Consequently, the integration of East Timor into the Republic of Indonesia was formalized on 17 July 1976 as its twenty-seventh province with rights and obligations equal to those of the other provinces.

In view of the above, my delegation reiterates its view that consideration of the question by the Committee is inappropriate and would constitute interference in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a sovereign Member State. Moreover, any granting of a hearing to any petitioner before the Committee would serve no useful purpose whatsoever.

My delegation, therefore, expresses its strong opposition to the participation of the petitioners in the deliberations of the Committee.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Special Committee.

(Signed) Nana S. SUTRESNA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1081/Add.1
6 August 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Letter dated 6 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee

With reference to aide-memoire 12/91 and Add.1 of 31 July 1991 and 6 August 1991, respectively, of the Special Committee concerning requests from persons as well as organizations to appear before the Special Committee as petitioners to speak about the so-called question of East Timor, I wish to convey the position of my delegation which is as follows.

The process of decolonization in East Timor has been carried out in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1542 (XV), thus terminating the colonial status of the former Territory. Consequently, the integration of East Timor into the Republic of Indonesia was formalized on 17 July 1976 as its twenty-seventh province with rights and obligations equal to those of the other provinces.

Based on the foregoing, my delegation reiterates its firm view that any consideration of this so-called question is inappropriate and would constitute unacceptable interference in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a sovereign Member States. Moreover, granting of a hearing to any petitioner would serve no useful purpose whatsoever.

My delegation, therefore, expresses its strong opposition to the participation of petititioners in the deliberations of the Committee.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the Special Committee.

(Signed) Nana S. SUTRESNA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1082
7 August 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

WESTERN SAHARA

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	GENERAL	1	2
II.	CONSIDERATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FIFTH SESSION	2 - 3	2
III.	GOOD OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	4 - 18	5
IV.	POLITICAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS	19 - 32	7

I. GENERAL

1. A detailed account of general conditions and developments related to Western Sahara was provided in a previous working paper on the Territory (A/AC.109/695).

II. CONSIDERATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

2. At the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, reference was made to the question of Western Sahara by a number of representatives during their statements in plenary meetings (see A/45/PV.5-11 and 13-29). An account of the Fourth Committee's consideration of the item at the same session is given in the related report of the Committee to the Assembly (A/45/685 and Corr.1).

3. On 20 November 1990, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 45/21 on the question of Western Sahara. The resolution reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

"Recalling the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

"Recalling its resolution 44/88 of 11 December 1989,

"Recalling resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) on Western Sahara, 1/ adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its nineteenth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 6 to 12 June 1983,

"Recalling also the agreement in principle given on 30 August 1988 by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to the joint proposals of the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to the holding of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, organized and supervised by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity,

---

"1/ For the text, see General Assembly resolution 38/40, para. 1.

"Recalling further Security Council resolution 621 (1988) of 20 September 1988 concerning the question of Western Sahara,

"Noting with satisfaction the appointment on 19 January 1990 of Mr. Johannes Manz as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara,

"Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 2/

"Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General, 3/

"Reiterating its support for the joint good offices process initiated in New York on 9 April 1986 by the then Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to promoting a just and definitive solution of the question of Western Sahara, in accordance with resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) and General Assembly resolution 40/50 of 2 December 1985,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. Reaffirms that the question of Western Sahara is a question of decolonization which remains to be completed on the basis of the exercise by the people of Western Sahara of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence;

"3. Welcomes with satisfaction the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the situation concerning Western Sahara, 4/ which was unanimously approved by the Council in its resolution 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990;

"4. Notes with appreciation the dispatching to Western Sahara and to neighbouring countries of the technical mission in order to refine the administrative aspects of the outlined plan 5/ and to obtain the necessary information for the preparation of a further report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council containing, in particular, an

---

"2/ A/45/23 (Part VI) and (Part VI)/Corr.1, chap. IX.

"3/ A/45/644 and Corr.1.

"4/ S/21360.

"5/ Ibid., part II.

estimate of the cost of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara;

"5. Expresses its full support for the efforts of the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to promote a just and definitive solution of the question of Western Sahara, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/50;

"6. Urges the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue and intensify their efforts with a view to resolving the remaining problems and thus to fulfil the necessary conditions for the holding of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, without any administrative or military constraints, organized and supervised by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

"7. Reaffirms its conviction that the direct dialogue between the two parties to the conflict could contribute to the completion of the joint good offices process of the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the restoration of peace in Western Sahara and to stability and security in the whole region;

"8. Appeals once again to the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to display the cooperation and the political good will necessary for the completion of the peace process with a view to a speedy settlement of the question of Western Sahara;

"9. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara as a matter of priority and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"10. Invites the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to keep the Secretary-General of the United Nations informed of the progress achieved in the implementation of the decisions of the Organization of African Unity relating to Western Sahara;

"11. Invites the Secretary-General to follow the situation in Western Sahara closely with a view to the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session."

III. GOOD OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

4. An account of a series of contacts and consultations undertaken in 1990 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the exercise of his good offices, within the context of General Assembly resolution 44/88 of 11 December 1989, is given in his report of 18 October 1990 to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session (A/45/644 and Corr.1). Since the circulation of that report, the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), has continued to exercise his good offices with the parties concerned.

5. Since January 1990, Mr. Johannes Manz, a national of Switzerland, has been the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara.

6. On 26 February 1991, the Secretary-General met in New York with Mr. Bechir Mustafa, a representative of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamira y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). The meeting formed part of the Secretary-General's consultations in preparation for his report to the Security Council on Western Sahara, in pursuance of paragraph 5 of the Council's resolution 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990.

7. In April 1991, the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council the report requested by the Council in its resolution 658 (1990). 1/ After a brief description of the technical mission, the report addressed each of the main elements of the implementation plan contained in paragraphs 48 to 76 of the Secretary-General's report of 18 June 1990, 2/ adding those details that might be of assistance to members of the Security Council in their consideration of his recommendation that the mission should now proceed. The report then amplified the information contained in paragraphs 77 to 82 of document S/21360 about the personnel and financial requirements of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), including an estimate of its overall cost. After describing the proposed timetable and plan of action, the report concluded with certain observations, including the recommendation that the Security Council should now decide to establish MINURSO and set a target date, subject to the necessary appropriation action by the General Assembly, for the commencement of its operations in the mission area.

8. On 24 April 1991, in a statement made during the informal consultations of the Security Council, the Secretary-General stated, inter alia, that four essential conditions must be met if MINURSO was to be able to discharge its responsibilities effectively and with complete impartiality:

> "First, MINURSO must at all times have the full support of the Security Council; second, it must operate with the full cooperation of the two parties; third, it must be able to count fully on the cooperation and support of the neighbouring countries, namely, Algeria and Mauritania; ... fourth, the necessary financial resources must be provided by Member States in full and in a timely manner." 3/

9. At its 2984th meeting, on 29 April 1991, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 690 (1991), in which, inter alia, it approved the report of the Secretary General; 1/ expressed its full support for the efforts of the Secretary-General for the organization and the supervision, by the United Nations in cooperation with OAU, of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in accordance with the objectives mentioned in his report; called upon the two parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in the implementation of his plan as described in the report contained in document S/21360 and amplified in his report contained in document S/22464 and Corr.1; decided to establish, under its authority, a United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara in accordance with the aforementioned report; decided that the transitional period would begin no later than 16 weeks after the General Assembly approved the budget for the Mission; and requested the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council regularly informed of the implementation of his settlement plan.

10. On 29 April 1991, at a press briefing at Headquarters, Mr. Johannes Manz said that MINURSO, which had been established by Security Council resolution 690 (1991) adopted on that day, was one of the most challenging operations the United Nations had ever undertaken. Because of budgetary constraints, it was essential that it be conducted with utmost efficiency so as to avoid additional costs.

11. At its 75th plenary meeting, on 13 May 1991, the General Assembly decided, on the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/45/241 and Add.1), to include the following item in the agenda of its forty-fifth session:

> 157. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

12. At its 76th plenary meeting, on 17 May 1991, the General Assembly adopted without a vote, resolution 45/266 entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and approved, in principle, an allocation of $US 180,617,000 ($US 176,868,000 net) to finance MINURSO for the nine-month mandate period approved by the Security Council. It appropriated an initial $US 143 million ($US 140 million net) for the first six months of the Mission, and decided to consider the appropriations required to finance the Mission for the remaining three months of its mandate upon receipt of a six-month progress report by the Secretary-General. 4/

13. On 25 May 1991, the Secretary-General had a tête-à-tête meeting with the King of Morocco lasting one-and-a-half hours during which they exchanged views on a number of international issues, in particular the United Nations operation in Western Sahara.

14. On 26 May, the Secretary-General spoke to the national and international press at the airport before leaving Rabat. In answer to a question regarding the date of the cease-fire in Western Sahara, he said that he had sent messages to both parties before leaving New York asking them to suggest a time-frame for the cease-fire. "I think, that it will occur very soon", he

said, adding, when pressed, that he hoped it would happen in June. Asked whether he was optimistic, the Secretary-General said he was hopeful and that his goal was to hold the referendum by the end of the year, possibly by the end of November.

15. In a statement before the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, delivered on 3 June 1991, the Secretary-General of the United Nations stated that the negotiations that had led to the adoption of the proposals for the settlement of the Western Sahara question had been conducted with the successive chairmen of OAU, whose advice and support had been indispensable and often decisive. He thanked the Chairman and the Secretary-General of OAU for their cooperation and support in the fulfilment of the responsibilities entrusted to him by the General Assembly and the Security Council towards reaching a peaceful settlement of the question of Western Sahara. 5/

16. Addressing the same Assembly on 4 June 1991, the Secretary-General of OAU stated in the introductory note to his activity report, that "all the conditions had been met to enable the referendum to be organized in Western Sahara in accordance with the peace plan initiated by our continental organization in 1983".

17. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara held an informal two-day meeting at Geneva to exchange views with representatives of the Government of Morocco and of Frente POLISARIO on matters relating to the preparation for the deployment of MINURSO. It is intended to continue the process of close and informal consultations with all concerned until the cease-fire prior to the referendum. The Special Representative will be taking up his duties at La'youn on 6 September 1991, the date that both parties have accepted for the cease-fire, in response to the proposals made by the Secretary-General. 6/

18. A further report of the Secretary-General on the progress of his good offices will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

IV. POLITICAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

(covering the period from August 1990 to July 1991)

19. On 4 October 1990, in his statement during the general debate in the General Assembly (A/45/PV.21), Mr. Abdellatif Filali, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, said that the so-called question of Western Sahara agenda item was directly related to the fundamental interests and destiny of the Kingdom of Morocco. Regardless of those considerations, Morocco had responded to the efforts and good intentions aimed at finding a solution to that conflict within the framework of the United Nations. Therefore, Morocco had agreed in principle to the Secretary-General's proposal made in August 1988 as part of his good offices, in order to reach a settlement of that problem. After welcoming that initiative, Morocco had

pursued the dialogue with the Secretary-General in that regard. Since then, the Secretary-General had visited Morocco many times, where he had had constructive and positive discussions. That had helped him to pursue further his efforts. Morocco had spared no effort in facilitating his mission and cooperating sincerely with him in search of a lasting solution to that problem as soon as possible. In that regard, a new development had taken place recently when the Secretary-General had submitted proposals for a practical settlement. On 30 July 1990, His Majesty King Hassan II had sent a letter to the Secretary-General clarifying Morocco's position on the proposals. Morocco viewed the future with great hope and optimism, and remained guided by the same spirit as in the past regarding the creation of the best conditions which would have led to the desired settlement. The delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco wished to underline, in that forum, Morocco's commitment to a continuing constructive dialogue with the Secretary-General and its readiness to cooperate sincerely with him.

20. At its 15th meeting, on 25 October 1990, the Fourth Committee adopted the draft consensus resolution A/C.4/45/L.2, as orally revised, without a vote on the question of Western Sahara. On 20 November 1990, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution without a vote as resolution 45/21 (see para. 3).

21. On 15 February 1991, the Commission on Human Rights meeting at Geneva, adopted, without a vote, a resolution on Western Sahara 7/ similar in content to General Assembly resolution 45/21.

22. At the opening session of the Special Committee on 21 February 1991, the Secretary-General, speaking on the question of Western Sahara, assured the Committee of his continued efforts towards the implementation of the United Nations plan leading to a peaceful, fair and lasting solution to that long-standing problem. He was maintaining contact with the two parties on all aspects of the question. He was confident that, given their cooperation and political will, a solution was now within reach. He hoped, therefore, that the parties would continue to accord particular attention to all issues regarding the implementation of the peace plan (A/AC.109/PV.1377).

23. On 24 April 1991, Frente POLISARIO's representative in Spain, Mr. Hach Ahmed, stated that the Saharans trusted the United Nations supervising measures to guarantee a fair referendum that would decide whether Western Sahara would become an independent State or would become part of Morocco. According to Frente POLISARIO, the start of United Nations arrangements for the holding of the referendum marked the beginning of the count-down for the end of Morocco's occupation of Sahara. 8/

24. In a declaration dated 29 April 1991 by the spokesman for the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 9/ Algeria welcomed the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of resolution 690 (1991), which set out the final arrangements for the implementation of the United Nations and OAU plan for a settlement of the question of Western Sahara and approved the establishment of MINURSO. A decisive stage had thus been reached on the path towards a

peaceful, just and final settlement of the question of Western Sahara. Algeria congratulated the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO on that major achievement in endeavours to secure a settlement of the Western Sahara conflict. It remained convinced that the settlement would have the effect both of consolidating progress made in constructing the Arab Maghreb Union and of promoting peace and stability in the region. Algeria would spare no effort to ensure that the referendum process took place in an atmosphere of calm, confidence and respect for the peace plan adopted by the Security Council.

25. In a note verbale dated 6 May 1991 addressed to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations transmitted the following declaration issued by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation:

> "The Islamic Republic of Mauritania welcomes the adoption of Security Council resolution 690 (1991) concerning the modalities for the settlement of the problem of Western Sahara.
>
> "It considers that the measures agreed on provide an opportunity for a just and lasting settlement of this fratricidal conflict and are therefore conducive to strengthening peace and stability in the subregion. Mauritania also welcomes the positive response of the parties concerned and their willingness to cooperate with the United Nations. ... It is prepared to give [the Secretary-General] whatever assistance and cooperation he may deem necessary for the accomplishment of his mission." 10/

26. On 8 April 1991, in a communiqué issued by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Government of Uruguay noted with satisfaction the adoption of Security Council resolution 690 (1991) approving the report of the Secretary-General concerning the organization and supervision, by the United Nations in cooperation with OAU, of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. It expressed the hope that the referendum would be a genuine, true and legitimate expression of the will of the Saharan people as a whole and added that it was prepared to cooperate technically with MINURSO. 11/

27. On 9 May 1991, Mr. Abdellatif Filali, State Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, said that a United Nations-sponsored referendum could be the perfect answer to the Western Sahara territorial dispute. "This could be the ideal solution to the problem", he said. 12/

28. On 17 May 1991, the European Community and its member States issued a statement on Western Sahara welcoming the adoption of Security Council resolution 690 (1991) approving the report of the Secretary-General on the referendum on self-determination, which they believed represented an important step towards a just and lasting settlement of the conflict. They also confirmed their support for the Secretary-General's efforts to implement the final stages of his plan (A/46/183).

29. On 18 May 1991, it was reported that King Hassan II had visited the city of Smara, in the Territory, where tens of thousands of people came to greet him. 13/

30. It was reported on 23 May 1991 that Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, Secretary-General of Frente POLISARIO, had stated in an interview that there was not much to negotiate with Morocco regarding the decolonization of Western Sahara; should the Secretary-General of the United Nations believe those negotiations to be useful, however, Frente POLISARIO would meet under the aegis of the Secretary-General. Frente POLISARIO's main concern was independence and sovereignty for Western Sahara. Once those were obtained, he did not foresee any difficulty in reinstating beneficial relations with their Moroccan neighbour. He was convinced that his people would choose independence. 14/

31. In a letter dated 24 May 1991 addressed to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations, referring to the adoption of Security Council resolution 690 (1991), expressed his country's support for the Secretary-General's efforts to reach a just and lasting solution of the question of Western Sahara, in particular regarding the organization and supervision by the United Nations, in cooperation with OAU, of a referendum for self-determination. 15/

32. On June 1991, in a communiqué issued by the Foreign Ministry of Japan, it was reported that Japan had decided to grant $US 3.8 million to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) for a programme to repatriate Saharans before a referendum on the self-determination of Western Sahara. 16/

Notes

1/ S/22464 and Corr.1.

2/ S/21360.

3/ See S/22532.

4/ See United Nations press release GA/8177, 17 May 1991.

5/ See United Nations press release SG/SM/4572, 4 June 1991.

6/ See United Nations press release SG/1888, 28 June 1991.

7/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 2 (E/1991/22-E/CN.4/1991/91).

8/ El País (Madrid), 25 April 1991.

9/ S/22560.

Notes (continued)

10/ S/22578.

11/ S/22579.

12/ Reuters dispatch, Madrid, 9 May 1991.

13/ El País (Madrid), 18 May 1991.

14/ Ibid., 23 May 1991.

15/ A/46/201-S/22646.

16/ See United Nations press release CP/623, 20 June 1991.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1083
8 August 1991

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1383rd meeting, on 7 August 1991

The Special Committee,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 1/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/16 of 20 November 1990 in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

---

1/ A/AC.109/1080.

1. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. Decides, subject to any decision which the General Assembly might take in that connection, to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1084
9 August 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	LAND AND PEOPLE	1 - 2	3
II.	CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT	3 - 4	3
III.	CONSIDERATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS	5 - 13	4
	A. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	5 - 9	4
	B. General Assembly	10 - 13	4
IV.	CONSIDERATION BY OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	14	5
	Organization of American States	14	5
V.	POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS	15 - 16	5
VI.	ECONOMIC CONDITIONS	17 - 47	6
	A. General	17 - 19	6

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
B.	Agriculture, land tenure and livestock	20 - 26	6
C.	Fisheries	27 - 31	7
D.	Industry	32 - 33	8
E.	Tourism	34	8
F.	Mining	35	8
G.	Energy	36 - 37	9
H.	Transport and communications	38 - 42	9
I.	Banking	43	10
J.	Public finance	44 - 47	10
VII.	SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS	48 - 66	10
A.	Labour and employment	48 - 52	10
B.	Housing	53 - 54	11
C.	Public health	55 - 61	11
D.	Educational conditions	62 - 64	12
E.	Human rights	65	13
F.	Status of women	66	13

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS) 1/

I. LAND AND PEOPLE

1. The Falkland Islands (Malvinas), which is administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, comprises two large islands known as East and West Falkland, as well as some 200 smaller islands and has a total area of about 12,173 square kilometres. The Territory is situated in the south Atlantic Ocean, about 770 kilometres north-east of Cape Horn and about 480 kilometres east of the South American mainland. South Georgia, located about 1,300 kilometres east-south-east of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) group and the South Sandwich Islands, about 750 kilometres east-south-east of South Georgia, are administered from the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as a matter of convenience; the Governor of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) acts as Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

2. According to the March 1991 census, the ordinary resident population of the Territory was 2,121, excluding military personnel and contract workers, but including some expatriate staff in permanent posts. Of the total, 1,643 lived at Stanley, the capital, and its environs and the remainder were scattered throughout the Territory. In 1980, according to the census of that year, of 1,813 permanent inhabitants, 1,360 were born in the Territory and about 300 in the United Kingdom.

II. CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

3. The Constitution of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) came into effect on 18 April 1985. (For details, see the 1985 working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/835 and Corr.1, paras. 4-39.)) It vests executive power in a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Chief Executive and Financial Secretary and three members nominated by the elected members of the Legislative Council. It provides that the Legislative Council should consist of eight elected members and the Chief Executive and Financial Secretary as ex officio members.

4. The election of the Legislative Council is regulated by the Constitution together with the Electoral Ordinance adopted by the Council in 1988. By virtue of these instruments, the Territory is divided into two constituencies for electoral purposes: the Stanley Constituency, which comprises the capital and its environs and the Camp Constituency, made up of the rest of the Territory. There are four elected members for each constituency and all persons who are Commonwealth citizens 18 years or older and who satisfy the residency requirements are allowed to vote. Elections must be held at intervals not longer than just over four years. The last general election took place in 1989.

III. CONSIDERATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS

A. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

5. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as its 1363rd, 1366th and 1368th to 1370th meetings, between 1 and 14 August 1990. The Committee acceded to a request from Argentina to participate in its consideration of the question at its 1369th meeting.

6. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba (A/AC.109/PV.1369) and Argentina (A/AC.109/PV.1370). The United Kingdom did not particpate in the Committee's consideration of the item.

7. At its 1363rd and 1366th meetings, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing of petitioners and, at its 1369th meeting, heard statements by four petitioners (A/AC.109/PV.1369).

8. At its 1370th meeting, on 14 August, which marked the conclusion of its consideration of the item, the Special Committee adopted, by 20 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, a draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1743) introduced by Venezuela on behalf also of Chile and Cuba.

9. On 27 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1050) was transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and of the United Kingdom to the United Nations for the attention of their Governments.

B. General Assembly

10. During the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the representative of Argentina, in the course of his statement in the general debate (A/45/PV.5), outlined the position of his Government on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). References to the question were also made by the representatives of Botswana (A/45/PV.25), Cuba (A/45/PV.11) and Guinea (A/45/PV.17).

11. In his statement before the General Assembly on 24 September 1990, the representative of Argentina said that by having restored diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom, Argentina had initiated a process of normalization that was already bearing fruit. The new situation had been made possible by the political decision of President Carlos Saul Menem to come to an agreement with the United Kingdom on a formula protecting the sovereign rights of Argentina over the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, which could not be relinquished. Implementation of that agreement enabled Argentina to advance in the strengthening of bilaterial relations with the United Kingdom while searching for ways and means to solve existing differences. His Government believed that the new climate between Argentina and the United Kingdom [should] also facilitate, at the appropriate time, the

resumption of negotiations on sovereignty repeatedly called for by the General Assembly. In the meantime, both countries needed to work out special and creative arrangements that would permit cooperation between mainland Argentina and the Islands while adequately taking into account the interests of the islanders. The existing lack of contact was anachronistic and inconsistent with the prevailing atmosphere of goodwill between Argentina and the United Kingdom. The Argentine Government again expressed its political will to put an end to [that] situation of isolation and to comply fully with the General Assembly resolutions on the Malvinas Islands (A/45/PV.5).

12. The United Kingdom did not refer to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) during the general debate. The last formal statements of the United Kingdom Government on the question were reflected in the 1990 working paper (A/AC.109/1042, paras. 14-16).

13. On 12 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, decision 45/424, in which it took note of a letter from Argentina and the United Kingdom (A/45/136-S/21159) and decided to defer consideration of the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and to include it on the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session.

IV. CONSIDERATION BY OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization of American States

14. At its twenty-first regular session, held in June 1991, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) adopted by consensus a declaration in which it considered that since its last regular session positive developments had taken place affecting many aspects of the relations between the two countries, but not with regard to "The question of the Malvinas Islands", and recalled its resolution of 19 November 1988 requesting the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find a peaceful settlement to the dispute regarding sovereignty as soon as possible and resolved to continue examining the matter in subsequent sessions until a definitive settlement was reached (A/46/255).

V. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

15. Political developments up to March 1990 were reported in previous working papers prepared by the Secretariat for the Special Committee (see particularly A/AC.109/1042, paras. 20-32).

16. During the year under review, no further political developments were reported.

VI. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

17. Following the establishment in 1987 of the Falkland Islands Interim Conservation and Management Zone (FICZ), the economy of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), which had been almost entirely dependent on the production and export of wool, was dramatically transformed. Fees from the sale of fishing licences became the greatest source of revenue and were of such a magnitude as to make the Territory financially independent from the administering Power. Besides improving government finances, the increase in revenues caused wages and salaries to rise faster than the rate of inflation and led to increased immigration of contractors and public officers involved with the fishing industry. As a result of these rapid changes, in 1988 the per capita national income increased to £22,960, compared with £4,510 in 1980.

18. In 1989, however, new problems began to emerge. In the agricultural sector, difficulties in the subdivided farms were aggravated by a sudden decline in the demand for wool on the world market. Also, businesses such as ship servicing and stevedoring began to fall off, with fewer ships using the islands for transshipping and bunkering.

19. During 1990, according to the administering Power, despite the revenue from fishing, there was a net outflow of funds in the public sector, as well as a reduction in profitability in the private sector. Agriculture and the emergent tourist industry, classified as income-generating sectors, required financial assistance, while sectors such as retail trade, recreation and construction, although expanding, were expenditure-dependent. Subject to surveys, there is a possibility of oil development at some time in the future.

B. Agriculture, land tenure and livestock

20. In recent years, the local Government had been acquiring the Territory's huge, absentee-owned sheep ranches and subdividing and selling them in smaller units to farmers, thus encouraging the evolution of a farming system based on owner-occupation. In March 1991, the Government purchased the remaining four farms belonging to the Falkland Islands Company, an institution established by Royal Charter in 1852, which once owned a large proportion of the total farmland of the Territory.

21. According to the administering Power, as a result of the subdivision, the number of farms increased from 36 in the late 1970s to 86 in 1991. Another direct consequence of the subdivision has been a transfer of majority ownership from overseas to the Territory. Before 1980, 76 per cent of the land was owned by overseas companies, compared with less than 5 per cent at present.

22. In 1989, there was a total of 745,123 sheep in the Territory. There were also between 300,000 and 400,000 geese, 5,876 head of cattle and 1,827 horses. 2/

23. In 1989, the Territory exported 2,620 tons of raw wool and 1,703 tons of clean wool. Although it accounts for less than 1 per cent of world wool production, the wool produced in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is of high quality. 2/

24. The Agricultural Research Centre under the Department of Agriculture is responsible for agricultural expansion in the Territory. Its staff includes specialists in agronomy, sheep husbandry and animal health, who provide support for farmers, in particular new landholders under the land development scheme, on technical matters.

25. The staff of the Department of Agriculture consists of a director, a veterinary officer, four scientific officers, two laboratory technicians, five extension/advisory staff and five support personnel. The Department's budget for 1991/92 is estimated at £710,000.

26. In January 1989, the Agricultural Grant Scheme, designed to encourage further investment in agriculture and to provide assistance to locally owned companies, was intrcduced in the Territory. The scheme is based on a five-year farm development plan available to all farmers.

C. Fisheries

27. As previously reported (see A/AC.109/1042, paras. 48-51), FICZ was established in 1987 to protect from overfishing the vast breeding grounds of squid and other species found in the continental shelf of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

28. FICZ established a licensing system to limit the number of fishing vessels and the total catch. There are currently some 200 vessels licensed to fish in FICZ, compared with 600 in 1986, when there was no formal regulation.

29. In order to administer FICZ, a Department of Fisheries was established in the Territory. One of its most important tasks is the collection of scientific data on the fish stocks to ensure that future levels of fishing remain compatible with the needs of conservation.

30. In 1989, the total catch from FICZ was just under 300,000 tons. With approximately 185,000 tons, squid was the most important species caught, followed by a number of fin-fish species such as blue whiting, hake and hoki.

31. On 26 December 1990, following an agreement reached one month earlier betwen the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom, another fishing zone, known as the Falklands Outer Conservation Zone (FOCZ), was established. The agreement imposes a temporary total ban on commercial fishing for ships of

any flag between latitudes 45° and 60° in the FOCZ. The agreement also provides for the creation of a South Atlantic Fishing Commission, composed of representatives of both Governments, which is to meet twice a year alternately at Buenos Aires and in London.

D. Industry

32. The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) was established in 1984 to advise the territorial Government in matters pertaining to economic development. The Corporation is vested with the authority to approve projects up to £250,000 without reference to the United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration. It provides grants and loans for development projects at advantageous interest rates in order to increase self-sufficiency and the export of processed and manufactured products.

33. With assistance from FIDC, a number of small businesses have been established. Currently, some 65 small businesses receive support from FIDC. These include a taxi service, a bus service, an electronics repair service, a mechanical repair shop, a number of restaurants, bars and retail outlets, a metal-working business, a driving school and a laundry. Other projects assisted by FIDC are a poultry farm and a market garden, which produce eggs and a range of salad vegetables sufficient to supply the local community and the military. Two dairies have also been set up to provide the population of the Territory with milk, cream and butter. In Stanley, the community is supplied with bread from two local bakeries and meat from a butchery.

E. Tourism

34. The Falkland Islands Tourism Board, a subsidiary of FIDC established in 1985, promotes the Territory as a tourist destination. It has financed the construction of accommodations suitable for tourists at Sea Lion Island, San Carlos, Salvador, Port Howard and Pebble Island. The Board has also provided financial assistance for self-catering accommodations at Chartres, Dunbar, Weddell, Carcass, Saunders Island and Fox Bay. In addition to various promotional leaflets, a video on the Territory's tourism potential has been produced for distribution to tour operators.

F. Mining

35. Currently, there is no significant mining activity in the Territory. However, there is increasing interest in the possibility of the existence of substantial offshore oil reserves. Although the very high production costs and the unpredictable weather conditions may limit the involvement of oil companies in exploiting whatever resources might exist, a press report indicates that British Petroleum, Shell, Occidental Petroleum and Conoco have begun talks with the territorial Government and some of these companies might start preliminary operations in the southern waters of the Territory in 1992. 3/

G. Energy

36. A power station has been installed at the Fox Bay East settlement. Throughout the rest of the Territory other than Port Stanley, power is derived from small-engined generators.

37. During 1990, owing to the installation of new equipment, the power station's maximum output was 4.7 megawatts. A 10 kilowatt wind generator was placed on Pebble Island in 1987. Interest in solar energy is reportedly growing.

H. Transport and communications

38. There are 110 kilometres of roads in the Territory outside Stanley, of which approximately 20 per cent are surfaced in bitumen, asphalt or concrete. The remainder are all-weather roads of crushed stone surface. There are no railways in the Territory.

39. The Government of the Territory operates an internal air service using three twin-engined Islander aircraft. The main airport, located at Mount Pleasant, about 30 kilometres from Stanley, has a runway of 2,590 metres and is capable of receiving wide-bodied jet aircraft. There are flights to and from the United Kingdom twice a week and, since May 1990, a small Chilean airline, Aerovías DAP, has provided regular fortnightly service betwen Punta Arenas in southern Chile and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). 4/ Airmail is flown regularly via Ascension Island.

40. Inter-island sea transport is offered by two small cargo vessels, one of 229 tons and one of 144 tons, both operated by a local shipping company. There is a shippng service between the United Kingdom and the Territory, with cargo vessels arriving approximately every month.

41. There is a government-owned and operated telephone system at Stanley and an extensive radio-telephone network throughout the Territory. An international service, first established in 1968, has now been extended to a full 24-hour-a-day service. During 1990, Cable and Wireless continued the installation of a £5.4 million digital telecommunications network spanning the entire Territory. Its cost is shared by the Falklands Islands Government and Cable and Wireless, which also supplies the Territory's international service.

42. Radio broadcasts are provided by the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station, a non-commercial radio operating 24 hours a day, financed jointly by the Government and by the British Forces Broadcasting Service, a division of the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC) of the United Kingdom. A television service also operated by SSVC is available at Stanley and some areas of East Falkland. It currently broadcasts for about five hours each day. It is expected that this service will be extended to most parts of the Territory by 1992.

I. Banking

43. The only bank in the Territory is the Standard Chartered Bank of the United Kingdom, which opened a branch at Stanley in December 1983 which provides a full range of banking facilities. Both United Kingdom and local coinage are used, together with local currency notes of values £20, £10, £5 and £1.

J. Public finance

44. Ordinary revenue decreased from £42.1 million for the year ended June 1989 to an estimated £38.5 million in 1990. Major sources of revenue included fisheries and the issuance of fishing licences, personal and company tax, public works, customs and harbour receipts, post and telecommunications and aviation.

45. Corresponding information for 1990 expenditures is not available. In 1989, total expenditure amounted to £32.6 million, compared with £31.1 million in 1988. Of that amount, £18.1 million represented ordinary expenditure.

46. Previously, the United Kingdom was the most important trading partner of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). In 1990, however, although the United Kingdom continued to be the largest source of the Territory's imports, over 90 per cent of the Territory's exports went to western and eastern European countries, as well as to Asia, particularly Japan. Major exports are fishing licences (£30 million) and wool (£3 million).

47. The largest category of imports since 1988 has been capital goods, namely plant and machinery for the construction of industry, motor vehicles and central heating systems. Fuel oil and food remain the most important consumer imports. No import statistics have been maintained since 1986.

VII. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour and employment

48. Traditionally, there is full employment in the Territory. During the period under review, however, for the first time in many years, a small degree of unemployment was reported, which was ascribed to the subdivision of large farms.

49. There are established scales of wages for Stanley and for the Camp. As of 1 January 1991, hourly wages at Stanley were as follows: handymen, £3.24-£3.58; labourers, £3.17; and skilled labourers, £3.24-£3.58 and £3.61-£3.94. A 40-hour week is customary.

50. In the Camp, minimum monthly wages for a 40-hour week for agricultural workers were as follows: general labourers, £320.24; semi-skilled workers,

£331.42; skilled workers, £349.41; and foreman or head shearer, £385.41. In addition, a cost-of-living adjustment is paid to all Camp employees. Labourers and shepherds also receive free quarters, fuel, meat and milk. Extra bonuses are paid for shearing, while labourers and shepherds are able to add to their earnings by engaging in contract work, such as fencing and peat-cutting. Employees in the Camp are given 21 days' annual holidays, including nine public holidays.

51. There are a number of overseas personnel working under contract, including St. Helenian workers who are often employed on short-term contracts to fill essential vacancies.

52. Various government departments and certain other employers at Stanley have apprenticeship schemes for training the limited number of craftsmen required.

B. Housing

53. The majority of the houses in Stanley are privately owned. The Government owns a number of houses that are rented to government employees and other residents of Stanley.

54. In the period under review, the administering Power reported that housing development undertaken by the Government and other sponsors had been completed. The territorial Government, having completed a programme of "general needs" housing construction, was concentrating resources on the provision of single-person housing and serviced plots for self-builders and local companies. Reports indicated increasing involvement in construction by the private sector.

C. Public health

55. Medical and dental treatment and drugs are free to the residents of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). All employed persons are required to pay a medical service levy of 1 per cent of their salary and employers, 1.5 per cent of the salary paid. Self-employed persons contribute 1.5 per cent of their net income for medical services.

56. There is no private system of medical care. The Falkland Islands Government Medical Department employs six registered medical practitioners, 10 registered nurses, 6 midwives, 8 untrained nursing auxiliaries, 3 laboratory and X-ray technicians, 1 dental surgeon, 1 pharmacist and 1 physiotherapist.

57. There is a joint civilian/military hospital, the King Edward Memorial Hospital, which was opened in 1987. Built at a cost of approximately £13 million, this hospital is equipped with 28 beds, including 2 for intensive care and 2 for maternity units. Facilities include an operating theatre suite, a pathology laboratory, an X-ray department and a casualty resuscitation

department. The hospital civilian medical service provides primary care to the population of the Territory, to some military personnel and to the crews of the fishing fleets operating around the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). It also provides airborne medical service to outlying farm settlements. Cases requiring specialist facilities are transferred to the United Kingdom via the Royal Air Force Medevac system.

58. In addition to its therapeutic function, the Medical Department of the Territory is also involved in a range of preventive medicine activities, including operating child health clinics, school medical services, immunization programmes, well-woman clinics and health education and family planning programmes.

59. The general state of health and nutrition of the population is reported to be good. The principal causes of death are cancer, heart disease and respiratory infections of the aged.

60. For 1990/91, estimated recurrent expenditure on all aspects of health care and public health is estimated at £1,576,610. Special expenditures amounted to an additional £66,500.

61. A system of social welfare grants and pensions is in operation to handle hardship and disability cases. One full-time and one part-time Social Welfare Officer are employed by the Medical Department to coordinate all social welfare functions in the Territory. Currently, infirm elderly are cared for in the hospital. A sheltered housing complex with accommodations for 15 persons is situated adjacent to this facility. Old-age pension schemes, both contributory and voluntary, are in existence. There is no provision for payment of disability pensions.

D. Educational conditions

62. Education is free throughout the Territory. Attendance is compulsory at Stanley for all children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Outside Stanley, attendance is compulsory for all children between 5 and 15 years living within 1.6 kilometres of a settlement school and for children between 7 and 15 years living within 3.2 kilometres of a settlement school. According to the administering Power, there is virtually no illiteracy in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

63. In 1988, the latest year for which figures are available, school enrolment totalled 353 and there were 42 teachers, of whom 36 were formally qualified. There are seven schools: two at Stanley (a senior and a junior school), one at Goose Green, one at Fox Bay East and the remainder at three settlements in the Camp. Secondary education is available only at Stanley, where 137 senior and 158 junior students were enrolled in 1988. There is a government boarding hostel at Stanley, with accommodation for 85 older children attending senior school and the upper classes of the junior school. A new secondary school is being built at Stanley at a cost of approximately $US 20 million. It is expected to be completed by 1992.

64. Although the Spanish language has been reintroduced in the school curriculum, all instruction in the schools of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is provided in the English language. The textbooks are obtained from the United Kingdom and opportunities exist for students to further their education in that country, financed by the United Kingdom Government, which also makes available bursaries for tertiary training.

E. Human rights

65. According to the administering Power, the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are observed in the Territory. In addition, the administering Power has extended the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the Territory, although they are not embodied in any one legislative instrument. The Constitution forbids the enactment of laws that are discriminatory.

F. Status of women

66. According to the administering Power, in conformity with articles 2 and 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, there is no discrimination on the basis of sex in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Notes

1/ The information contained in the present paper covering the period has been derived from official United Nations documentation, from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 6 August 1991 for the year 1990/91.

2/ The Europa World Yearbook (London), vol. II, 1990, p. 2758.

3/ The New York Times, 15 June 1991.

4/ The Europa World Yearbook (London), vol. II, 1990, p. 2759.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1085
12 August 1991

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1387th meeting, on 9 August 1991

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Acting Chairman on the question, 1/

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of colonial Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

---

1/ A/AC.109/L.1757.

Noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee;

4. Requests its Acting Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1086
12 August 1991

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF NEW CALEDONIA

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its
1388th meeting, on 9 August 1991

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including in the areas of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of New Caledonia's act of self-determination,

Acknowledging the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific, and the positive actions being taken by the French

authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the member countries of the South Pacific Forum,

1. Urges all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, in a spirit of harmony, their dialogue;

2. Invites all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open, and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians;

3. Decides, subject to any directives that the General Assembly may give at its forty-sixth session, to continue to consider the item at its next session.